

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7411

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FOR THE SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (SCHMIDT, HELMUT)

SUBJECT: SCHMIDT'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON

1. I HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT WILL BE SPEAKING MAY 26 IN THE AFTERNOON AT THE UN SPECIAL SESSION ON DISARMAMENT. WHILE WE HAVE JUST HEARD (SEPTEL) THAT HE HAS ACCEPTED AN INVITATION FROM MANLEY TO VISIT JAMAICA THE AFTERNOON OF MAY 27 AND ON MAY 28, HE WOULD BE FREE TO COME TO WASHINGTON THE MORNING OF MAY 27 OR ON MONDAY, MAY 29, BEFORE THE NATO SUMMIT BEGINS MAY 30. I KNOW THAT HE HOPES VERY MUCH THAT IT WILL BE POSSIBLE TO ARRANGE AN INFORMAL MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT SOMETIME DURING THIS PERIOD.

2. GIVEN THE IMPORTANCE OF GOOD UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE U.S. AND THE FRG AND THE PROBLEMS AND STRAINS WHICH WE HAVE BEEN EXPERIENCING, I THINK IT WOULD BE MOST USEFUL IF THE PRESIDENT COULD FIND SOME TIME TO TALK PRIVATELY WITH SCHMIDT. I REALIZE THAT THERE WILL BE CONCERN THAT, IF A BILATERAL WITH SCHMIDT TAKES PLACE, A NUMBER OF OTHER CHIEFS OF GOVERNMENT COMING FOR THE SUMMIT WILL ALSO WISH TO SEE THE PRESIDENT. HOWEVER,

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IF THE SCHMIDT VISIT COULD BE HANDLED QUIETLY AND WITH MINIMUM PUBLICITY, PERHAPS THIS PROBLEM COULD BE MITIGATED.

3. SCHMIDT IS KEENLY AWARE, OF COURSE, THAT CALLAGHAN HAD AN EXTENSIVE TALK WITH THE PRESIDENT ON HIS RECENT VISIT TO WASHINGTON, AND I AM SURE HE HOPES IT WILL BE

POSSIBLE TO HAVE A SIMILAR OPPORTUNITY. IT COULD BE OF GREAT HELP FROM A SUBSTANTIVE STANDPOINT. ON THE OTHER HAND, IF A MEETING IS NOT ARRANGED, THE PRESS HERE PROBABLY WOULD PLAY IT UP AS AN ADVERSE DEVELOPMENT IN OUR RELATIONS.

4. I THEREFORE WOULD RECOMMEND STRONGLY THAT EVERY EFFORT BE MADE TO ARRANGE FOR SCHMIDT TO SEE THE PRESIDENT WHEN HE IS IN WASHINGTON.

STOESSEL

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